

Der Panther

poem by Rainer Maria Rilke

music by Solomon Epstein

Song for Medium Voice

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Der Panther

Jardin Des Plantes, Paris

poem by Rainer Maria Rilke

music by Solomon Epstein

Sein Blick ist vom Vorübergehn die Stäbe
so müd geworden, dass er nichts mehr hält,
Ihm ist, als ob es tausend Stäbe gäbe
und hinter tausend Stäben keine Welt.

Der weiche Gang geschmeidig starker Schritte,
der sich im allerkleinsten Kreise dreht,
ist wie ein Tanz von Kraft um eine Mitte,
in der betäubt ein großer Wille steht.

Nur manchmal schiebt der Vorhang der Pupille
sich lautlos auf----, Dann geht ein Bild hinein,
geht durch der Glieder angespannte Stille----
und hört im Herzen auf zu sein.

His stare from ever gazing through the bars
is so exhausted that it grasps nothing.
To him it seems that there are thousands of
bars, and behind them no world.

The easy movement of his powerful stride,
which turns about an ever smaller circle,
is like a dance of strength around a center
in which a mighty will stands stupefied.

Only sometimes when the pupil's curtain
rises soundlessly... then one image enters
and glides through the limbs' suspended quiet
into the heart and stops--- still.

Der Panther

Solomon Epstein
(1962)

Lento

Lenzo

4/4

mp

sf

5. mp

5 *mp*

Sein Blick — ist vom Vor — ü — ber — gehn — der *sf* Stürze so müd'

legato *simile*

mp *sf* *mp*

8

10

Handwritten musical score for the song "Der Hirt und das Schaf". The score is written on two staves. The top staff is for the vocal line, and the bottom staff is for the piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked "Allegretto". The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

Vocal Line (Top Staff):

- Measures 8-9: "ge - word - en"
- Measure 10: "dass er Nichts mehr"

Piano Accompaniment (Bottom Staff):

- Measures 8-9: The piano part consists of a series of chords and single notes, primarily in the right hand, with some bass line activity in the left hand.
- Measure 10: The piano part continues with chords and single notes, supporting the vocal melody.

Handwritten Annotations:

- A bracket on the left side of the piano accompaniment is labeled "mp" (mezzo-piano).
- The number "8" is written above the first measure of the vocal line.
- The number "10" is written above the third measure of the vocal line.

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12

hält. legato ihm ist als ob es

This block contains the first system of the handwritten musical score. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piano accompaniment is in a lower register, also with a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics 'hält. legato ihm ist als ob es' are written below the vocal line. There are three measures in this system, with a '3' above the final measure indicating a triplet.

cresc. poco a poco

tau- - - send Sta-be gä-be

This block contains the second system of the handwritten musical score. It continues the vocal and piano parts. The lyrics 'tau- - - send Sta-be gä-be' are written below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment features several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' in a circle) over groups of notes. The system ends with a double bar line.

15

cresc.

und- - hin- - - ter tau- -

cresc.

This block contains the third system of the handwritten musical score. It continues the vocal and piano parts. The lyrics 'und- - hin- - - ter tau- -' are written below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment features several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' in a circle) over groups of notes. The system ends with a double bar line. Below this system, there are additional empty staves and a large '3' and '4' written vertically, possibly indicating a change in tempo or a section marker.

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16

ff

rit.

Handwritten musical score for measures 16-20. The score is written on three staves. The top staff is in treble clef, the middle in alto clef, and the bottom in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure 16 starts with a forte (ff) dynamic. The lyrics 'send stäh ben Kei-he Welt.' are written below the staves. Measure 17 has a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic. Measure 18 has a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic. Measure 19 has a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic. Measure 20 has a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic. The tempo is marked 'rit.' (ritardando) at the beginning and end of the section. There are triplets in measures 17, 18, and 19.

20

Handwritten musical score for measures 21-22. The score is written on three staves. The top staff is in treble clef, the middle in alto clef, and the bottom in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure 21 starts with a piano (p) dynamic. The tempo is marked 'a tempo: Lento dolce'. Measure 22 has a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic. The tempo is marked 'accelerando poco a poco non legato'. The tempo is marked 'crescendo poco a poco' in the middle of measure 22. There are triplets in measures 21 and 22.

22

a tempo: Lento

Handwritten musical score for measures 23-24. The score is written on three staves. The top staff is in treble clef, the middle in alto clef, and the bottom in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure 23 starts with a forte (ff) dynamic. The tempo is marked 'a tempo: Lento'. Measure 24 has a piano (pp) dynamic. The tempo is marked 'pp legato'. The tempo is marked 'Der' at the end of measure 24. There are triplets in measures 23 and 24.

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- 4 -

25

wei - che Gang ge - schmeid - ig stark - er Schrit - te der sich im

legato

28

al - - - ler klein - sten Krei - - - se dreht.

cresc.

30

al - - - ler klein - sten Krei - - - se dreht.

32 *f*

ist wie ein Tanz von

ff *smf* *8va*

35 *f*

h Kraft *um*

mf *sp* *crescendo* *loco*

8va

37 *f*

ei - - - ne mit - te in der be - - -

loco *sp*

8va

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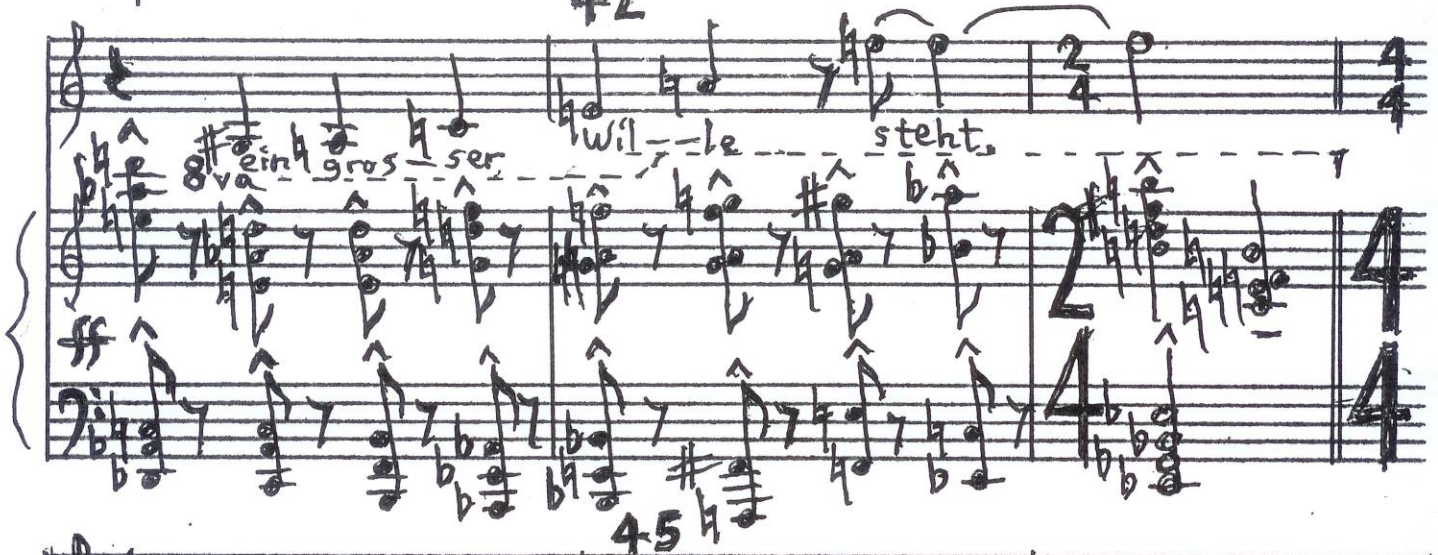
40

Handwritten musical score for measures 40-41. The score is in 4/4 time and features a piano accompaniment with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The melody is marked with *non legato* and *non accel.* The piano part includes a *crescendo* and *molto* marking, followed by a *ff* (fortissimo) dynamic. The key signature has one sharp (F#).



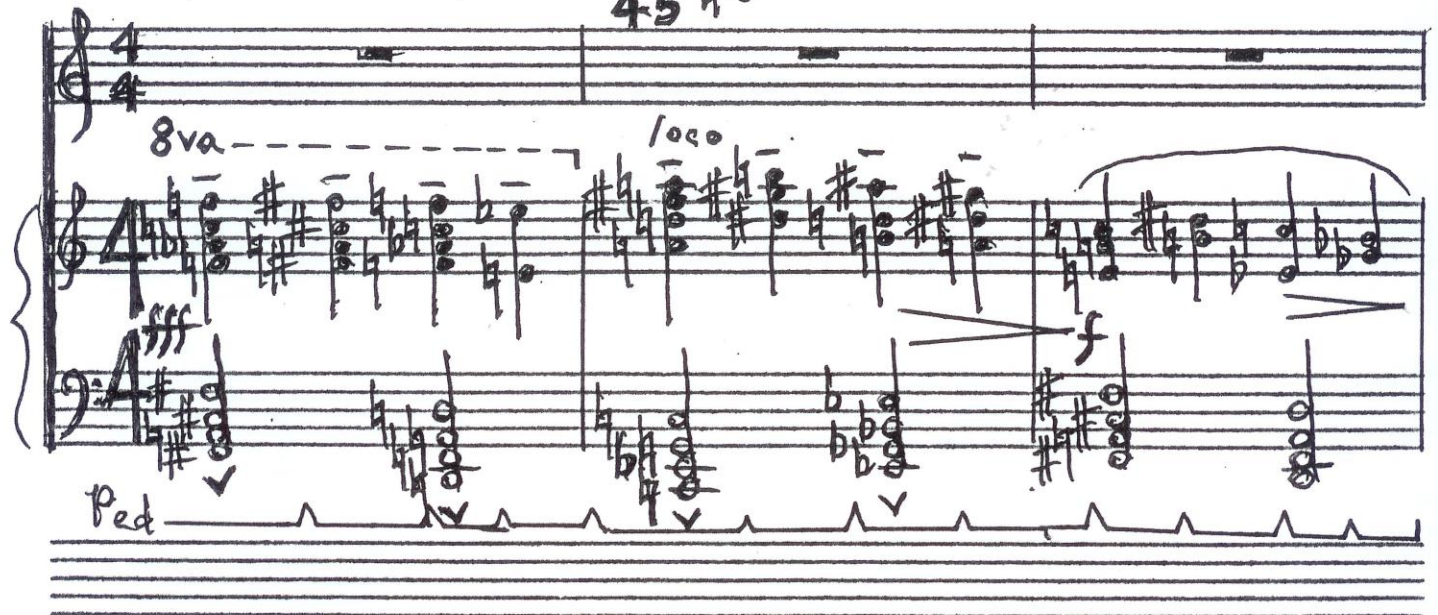
42

Handwritten musical score for measures 42-44. The score is in 4/4 time and features a piano accompaniment with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The melody is marked with *ff* (fortissimo) and includes a *2/4* time signature change. The piano part includes a *ff* (fortissimo) dynamic. The key signature has one sharp (F#).



45

Handwritten musical score for measures 45-46. The score is in 4/4 time and features a piano accompaniment with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The melody is marked with *8va* (octave) and *loco* (loco). The piano part includes a *fff* (fortississimo) dynamic and a *Ped* (pedal) marking. The key signature has one sharp (F#).



48

50

mf p. mp pp

52

piu mosso 8va

mp

Nur manch-mal

legato sempre

pp

a tempo: Lento

mp (s)

pp poco accel.

4 a tempo

sich-

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58 mp

60

62 morendo

a tempo: Lento

65

poco spp

68

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= 9 =

70 *mf* *p*

der Glö- -- der an-ge-spann-te stil-le-

73 *p* 75

und hört im Herz -- en auf zu

77 80 82 *non rit.*

sein. -- legato sempre

March 27, 1962